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who began his studies nearly a half century ago, gives little space to tentative theorizing, but presents a great deal of material for the further elucidation of questions relating to the volcanoes; and he tells a connected story of their activities in historic times. His long familiarity with the visible phenomena and the written record has helped him to make a very valuable addition to the literature of Hawaiian vulcanology.

## EUROPE

**Ancient Britain and the Invasions of Julius Cæsar.** By T. Rice Holmes. xx and 743 pp., 44 illustrations, 3 maps and addenda. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1907. 21s.

As the title indicates, "*Ancient Britain and the Invasions of Julius Cæsar*," by T. Rice Holmes, does more for England than its predecessor and companion volume did for France. There the author's purpose was merely to illustrate Cæsar's narrative of the Gallic Wars, though in doing so he gathered together a vast range of material of the greatest importance to the archæology, history and antiquities of Gaul. Here, besides illustrating the far briefer narrative of the invasions, he gives an account of the life of man in Ancient Britain from the earliest pre-historic times. As in the former book, the narrative of Part I is continuous, giving the reader the garnered results of many an investigation and of much careful thinking, while Part II is devoted to more technical discussions, where many-sided problems have a full presentation.

The chapters descriptive of the state of Britain before Cæsar's first invasion give successive pictures, with an abundance of anthropological detail, of the Palæolithic, the Neolithic, the Bronze, and the early Iron Age. After affirming his belief in Tertiary man, despite the lack of remains, the author discusses the Ice Age and finds that "man was undoubtedly living in Southern Britain in the cold period that succeeded the so-called inter-glacial period." He has nothing to offer as to the date of these shadowy ages, except to suggest that the Palæolithic Age in Britain may have been partly contemporary with the Neolithic in warmer climates. Dr. Evans dates the earliest Neolithic remains in Crete about 12,000 years ago, and those at Susa, in the Euphrates valley, have been placed about 18,000 B. C. In these early days England was still continental and the Thames a tributary to the Rhine.

With the advent of the Neolithic invaders British civilization begins, and may be said to be fairly continuous from that day to this. By that time the great beasts which had lived in Britain with Palæolithic man were no more, but the Irish elk and the aurochs survived into the Bronze Age.

The beginning of the Bronze Age in Britain is set not later than 1,400 B. C., and about this time another invasion from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Gaul occurred, introducing some portion of the so-called Alpine race of Central Europe, from which came also those fair-haired heroes called Achæan, who overran the Mycænæan bronze civilization of the eastern Mediterranean lands. The picture of the life and culture of the Bronze Age is naturally more complete and lifelike than that of the preceding, and we have a full account of their social organization, agriculture, dwellings, dress, ornaments, etc., with something like the fullness with which we can trace this age in Crete and Greece.

Of especial interest at this point is the extended and sympathetic account of the voyage of Pytheas, that Greek explorer who first made Britain known to

the civilized world. Sailing from Massilia (Marseilles) about the time when Alexander was invading the Far East, this early navigator not only circum-navigated the British Isles but made careful scientific observations of the lunar influence on the tides, of the altitude of the sun at noon at points along the coast from which Hipparchus could calculate their latitude, and of the manners and customs of the inhabitants. Mr. Holmes settles upon St. Michael's Mount (not to be confounded with Mont St. Michel on the French coast) as the ancient Iotis (literally Channel island) from which the tin was shipped to the mouth of the Loire, thereby rejecting the long-accepted etymological identification with the Isle of Wight.

One is impressed anew by the reading of this book with the fact that England, instead of being the "tight little island" she imagines herself to be, has in reality ever been open to invasion after invasion; that of the Normans is but the last (up to the present) of a long series, the beginning of which antedates written history. About 400 B. C. the Brythons began to enter, from Gaul or Belgium, bringing with them the Celtic language and the use of iron, which by this time had spread over continental Europe. Of their civilization we have even a fuller picture, towns permanently inhabited, currency, operations of mining, works of art, reading and writing, and the Druidical system of religion.

Such they were when Cæsar reached them, Aug. 26 (according to Mr. Holmes not Aug. 27), 55 B. C. Where did he land and whence did he set sail? These vexed questions are treated at great length in special excursions of Part II. Unfortunately for our peace of mind, Mr. Holmes himself in his still more recently published translation of Cæsar's text, changes front again and leaves the question of embarkation still open, despite the fact that in the preface to this book he regards it as settled forever and is inclined to regard with pity those crooked minds that refuse to be convinced by his invincible arguments. "The questions would have been settled long ago if any competent writer had bestowed upon them as much care as has been expended in investigating Hannibal's passage over the Alps." It is well known that the location of the Portus Itius (literally Channel port) from which Cæsar sailed has had as many claimants as Homer's birth-city and with about as fair a chance of amicable adjustment. As early as the Fifteenth Century, Raymond de Marliano identified it with Calais, but of late the choice has been restricted to Wissant and Boulogne. So excellent are the reasons which Mr. Holmes adduces for his selection of Boulogne that, were it not for his still more recent change, we might reasonably regard the inquiry as closed.

Equally insoluble has been the question of his landing-place, so said Mommesen, Tozer, and Kiepert. But our author is very sure that all is plain; at least he has not yet had occasion to change. After discussing most carefully the evidence for Pevensey, Lympne (Romney Marsh), and Deal, he decides for the latter, finding that all conditions of wind, tide, and coast configuration are met by assuming the landing to have occurred on the open coast between Walmer and Deal in East Kent.

Other valuable notes follow on "Where did Cæsar first encounter the Britons on the morning after his second landing?" "Where did Cæsar cross the Thames?" "The Site of Cassivellaunus's Stronghold," "Did *Londinium* exist in Cæsar's Time," etc.

Besides many illustrations of pre-historic implements, three excellent maps are included in the volume, and the whole work is carefully indexed. S. A. H.